

Zoller Block (Bijou Theatre)
119-121 South Federal Avenue
Mason City
Cerro Gordo County

HABS No. IA-129

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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| STATE IA | COUNTY CERRO GORDO | TOWN OR VICINITY MASON CITY |
| HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) ZOLLER BLOCK | | HABS NO. IA-129 |
| SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Bijou Theatre | | |
| COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 119-121 South Federal Avenue. Prior to street renamings in 1916, the address of the building was 219-221 South Main Street. | | |
| DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1894 | ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Not known | |
| SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) The building has a front facade of decorative tin cladding and cast iron. The tin front was ordered from catalogs and is an example of early use of prefabrication and standardization. (continued to page 2) | | |
| STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Late 19th century commercial building style | | |
| MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) The front wall is faced with decorative tin sheeting. The side walls are of native limestone and the rear wall is of brick. Wood beams and wood joists support (continued to page 2) | | |
| SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) The building is two stories high with a basement and measures approximately 44' X 100'. | | |
| EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE The second floor front wall has a pair of symmetrical bay windows. Ornamentation is derivative of classical forms. A festoon motif is used on the bay windows and a lion's head motif is used on the pilasters. The window configuration on other elevations is segmental arch. A simple parapet crowns the roof. | | |
| INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Plaster is the predominant wall finish and most of the ceilings are of newer acoustical tile. | | |
| MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES The ground floor storefronts have been extensively altered and a decorative scroll has been removed from atop the front cornice. The parapets of the stone party walls have been rebuilt with brick. The rear wood stairs and porches have been replaced. (continued to page 2) | | |
| PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Demolished 1978 in accordance with the redevelopment plan for the City of Mason City. | | |
| OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE The project was the result of a Memorandum of Agreement between the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Iowa State Historic Preservation Officer and the City of Mason City, in compliance with Executive Order 11593 as a mitigative effort in the redevelopment plan. | | |
| SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) See page 3 | | |
| COMPILER, AFFILIATION Ronald Schmitt, architect, Environmental Planning and Research, Chicago; Susan McCann, editor, Historic American Buildings Survey | | DATE 1977; 1982 |

ZOLLER BLOCK-BIJOU THEATER
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SIGNIFICANCE: (continued from page 1)

The building was named the Zoller Block after the developer and owner, Katherine Zoller. It originally housed Haworth and Perry, an early department store, on the ground floor. In 1906, J.M. Heffner converted the north half of the ground floor into the Bijou Theater which was the first movie house in Mason City. The first seats in the theater were kitchen chairs and the maximum seating was 200.

MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION: (continued from page I)

the wood floors and roof deck.

MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES: (continued from page I)

A marquee for the Bijou Theater was added to the front around 1912 and later removed.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Early Views:

Postcard views of the building, circa 1899 and 1906, are at the collection of Art Fischbeck, 15 E. State Street, Mason City, Iowa.

Interview:

Art Fischbeck, 15 E. State Street, Mason City, Iowa.

Bibliography:

Building Inspection, Environmental Planning and Research, October 5, 1971.

Davenport and Associates. Draft for Environmental Impact Statement.
Mankato, Minnesota, January 1976, p. 119.

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Survey form (no. CBD-44) on file at Department of Community Development,
Mason City, Iowa, November 18, 1976.

Environmental Planning and Research, Inc. Mason City, Iowa: An Architectural Heritage. Department of Community Development, Klipto Printing Company, Mason City, Iowa, 1977, pp. 26, 75, 79.

Mason City Globe Gazette. (newspaper centennial edition) "A Century of Achievement", Monday June 1, 1953, section 7, page number unknown.